THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 81, Number 42 | Using verbs since 1911. | Monday, November 18, 1991

McGill History department refuses Black studies

by Audrea Golding

The history department curriculum committee refused last week to approve a proposal for a Black history course submitted by the Black Students' Network (BSN).

Miriam Kaba, Outreach Chairperson for the BSN was not surprised by the curriculum committee's decision.

The committee said they would not hire new professors next year due to budgetary constraints. The history department would also not hire any professors on the basis of race.

"We expected this excuse to be used by the University's administration," said Kaba. "However, budget constraints can't excuse the pressing need for hiring more professors of colour."

The BSN wants the Black history course to be required for all history students. They also require it be taught by a qualified professor of African descent.

When asked about the lack of a Black perspective in the History department curriculum committee member, Robert Vogel said, "That's a controversial area."

The Black history course was designed to be the forerunner of the Africana Studies program — a minor program which would study the contributions of Blacks to such disciplines as political science, music, sociology, literature, mathematics and science. The program would be the first Black studies program in Québec.

Neither the history department nor the curriculum committee have made a formal committment to introduce a Black history course. The curriculum committee has not yet formally contacted the BSN to suggest changes to the proposal.

"The proposal was only lightly discussed at the meeting because the meeting was to discuss changes to the existing curriculum," Vogel said.

The student rep on the committee told BSN members the proposal could not be formally considered until the format was changed. But history professors did not suggest changes after studying the proposal at an earlier department meeting.

The student rep suggested the BSN take the proposal to a history professor to have it taught as a course for next year.

The BSN has not yet decided if this is acceptable, since there are no professors of African descent in the department.

The BSN, supported by the History Students' Association, made repeated requests to present their proposal in person at the curriculum committee meeting. The history department did not answer their requests, and BSN members were not invited to the committee meeting.

Many BSN and Montréal Black community members are disappointed with the lack of progress being made in introducing the Black history course.

"With the debate raging across the United States about what we should be teaching our children, more and more people are realizing that the contributions of African peoples have been ignored for too long," argued one BSN member.

Many other universities across Canada offer Black studies programs and courses dealing with Black issues. Dalhousie introduced a Major program in Black studies last year.

"It is ridiculous that McGill graduates know very little about the contributions of Africans, whether it be the Moors' dominance in Europe for eight hundred years up until the advent of slavery, or the ancient Black civilization of Egypt," said Dave Austin, the Cultural Issues Chairperson of the BSN. "Most don't even know that the history of humankind began in Africa."

The BSN's next general meeting will be held this Wednesday and will devise a strategy along with other Montréal community groups to appeal to the University for a committment to introducing a Black studies program.

According to Austin, "This is only the first stage. Now that we know where the history department stands, we know which further steps to take."

Woman arrested at "party" for theft

Student politicians accused of misconduct

by Peter Clibbon

Two student delegates at a conference last week are being accused of soliciting the services of sex-trade workers. One of the two alleged sex-trade workers was later arrested by police for taking alcohol from a hotel kitchen.

The allegations come from officials of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), and are directed towards Nicolas Plourde, president of Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), and Mark Magnuson, president of CFS-Saskatchewan.

"I think what they did violates the principles for which CFS stands for, concerning respect for women and sexual harrassment," said Nancy Hepinstall, the national women's commissioner for CFS.

Plourde has denied the allegations. He said the CFS's allegations are "slanderous" and are part of a political manoeuvre to attack him and the FEUQ student association. The McGill Students' Society has been a member of FEUQ since last year, though its membership was contested in a referendum last year.

The alleged incident occured last Tuesday during a CFS national annual meeting in Ottawa.

Hepinstall said a hotel manager told her about an incident that had occurred in a room of the hotel. "Then I realized that it was Plourde's hotel room," she said.

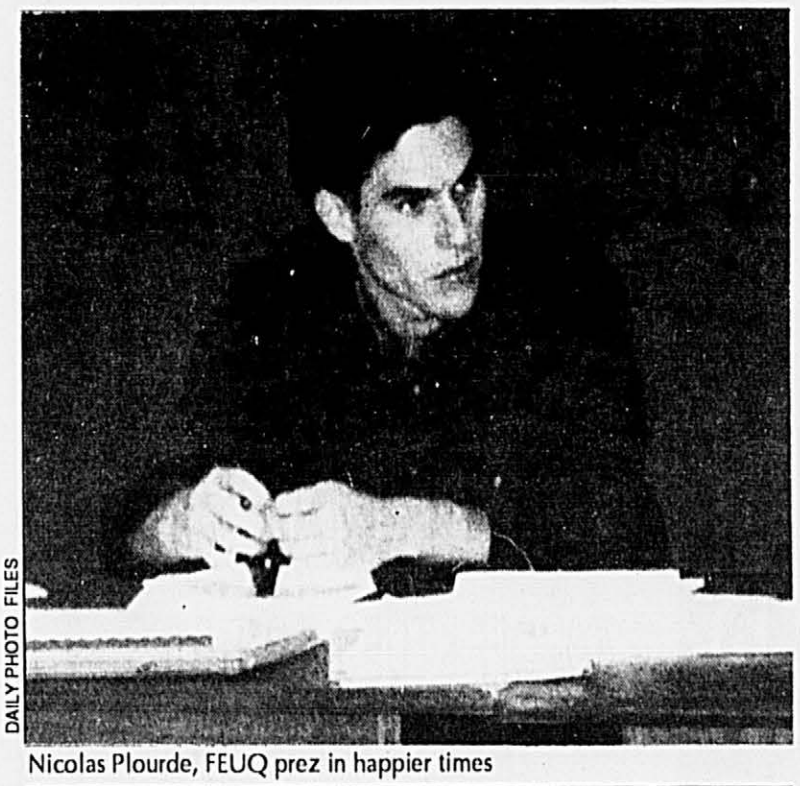
The manager told Hepinstall someone in Plourde's room had ordered alcohol from room service and was refused. Later, a hotel employee discovered two women in the hotel kitchen.

At 5h00, when hotel staff discovered that alcohol was missing from a kitchen fridge, hotel management went to Plourde's room. A woman in Plourde's room was arrested and charged with theft by police later that morning.

Hepinstall said by Thursday that rumours about the incident had "spread like wildfire," but at the time none of the CFS delegates knew how to react to it.

"Many delegates felt uncomfortable in the continued presence of the people involved in the incident," said Hepinstall.

FEUQ president Plourde said the two women were in his hotel room, but that they were not sex-trade workers. He said he met the women in a bar in Hull and invited them to a party in his hotel room.



DAILY PHOTO FILES

Nicolas Plourde, FEUQ prez in happier times

"It's not in my nature to consort with (prostitutes). Saying those two women were prostitutes is completely false," said Plourde. "If she (the woman arrested) was a prostitute, I would have been also arrested for soliciting her services."

Plourde said he did not have any part in the theft from the hotel kitchen. "I was only a witness to (the incident). I was not involved," he said.

Hepinstall said Plourde was observed by CFS delegates picking up the sex-trade workers in Hull. However Hepinstall did not identify who had actually viewed the incident.

Hepinstall also accused Mark Magnuson, from Saskatchewan, of soliciting services from the two women. She said Magnuson's "after-hours" behaviour at the annual meeting and his "implicit involvement" in the alcohol theft was "utterly inappropriate for a representative of CFS."

Plourde acknowledged that Magnuson was also at the party, but said two or three other people were also present.

Magnuson would not comment on the incident and said he didn't know Plourde.

"I don't know Nicolas Plourde except from seeing him at the general meeting," he said. "I don't understand where these rumours began."

Students' Society VP External Karla MacDonald said she was very concerned about the allegations. "If this is in fact true, I'm really disgusted," said MacDonald.

MacDonald said the Students' Society executive will meet in the next few days to discuss how it will respond to the alleged incident.

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Student Society can't count on student official

by Shannon Aldinger

Incompetence during Students' Society elections last year could have annulled key referenda, student councillors are suggesting.

"There was a lot of trouble with last year's Chief Returning Officer," current co-Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Deanna Vanderyagt said.

Results from every referenda last year could have been invalidated because the 10 per cent quorum was not obtained.

But results can no longer be contested. Students' Society's election by-laws state all appeals to the Judicial Board over an election or referendum must be made within 48 hours after results are announced.

Former Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Eric Steinman consistently miscalculated the number of eligible voters needed for quorum.

Students last year voted to join la Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ); approved post-graduate secession from Students' Society and amended Students's Society's constitution, including the addition of an affirmative action clause.

Calling 10 per cent "an arbitrary figure," Students' Society President Scott Mitic does not think last year's referenda are any less legitimate despite the absence of quorum.

"My reaction would be that (the lack of quorum) does not de-legitimize (last year's) decisions because this year's health plan is not less legitimate with 11% of the vote than it is with 22 per cent," Mitic said.

"I think students who vote are representative of the student body as a whole," said Mitic. "Regarding FEUQ (which passed by a slim margin of 1035 'yes' votes to 951 'no' votes), if we had had more people vote, we would have had the same slim margin, only with more votes on both sides."

But architecture rep. to council Dave Gruber thinks the lack of quorum renders the decisions less legitimate.

"If one says any number of people can make decisions as important as the ones voted on last year, then why do we even have a referendum procedure?," he said. "Why not just have Council make the decisions?"

> "It seems Eric Steinman [last year's CRO] took some of the records to his home in Vancouver."
> — Deanna Vanderyagt, CRO 91-92

Last year, approximately 2200 students voted during the fall term referendum and 2400 in the winter term, according to Steinman's reports to council. Steinman calculated these figures to represent 11 per cent and 14 per cent of the student body respectively.

But Steinman's calculations were grossly underestimated. Current co-CRO William Stee calculated the number of eligible voters to be 22 356 this year, requiring 2236 voters for quorum.

But this year's number of eligible voters should be substantially less than last year's because post-graduates seceded from Students' Society last March.

"This year for some reason quorum was considered 200 students higher than last year. It didn't make sense because grads don't vote anymore," Gruber said.

Using Stee's method of calculation and Senate documents on enrolment, last year's number of eligible voters should have approximated 29 000 students. As quorum was supposed to be 2900, last year's voter turnout of 2200 represents less than 8 per cent.

Gruber said Steinman excluded part-time students in his calculations. But the error cannot be traced because most referenda and election records from last year have been lost, said Vanderyagt.

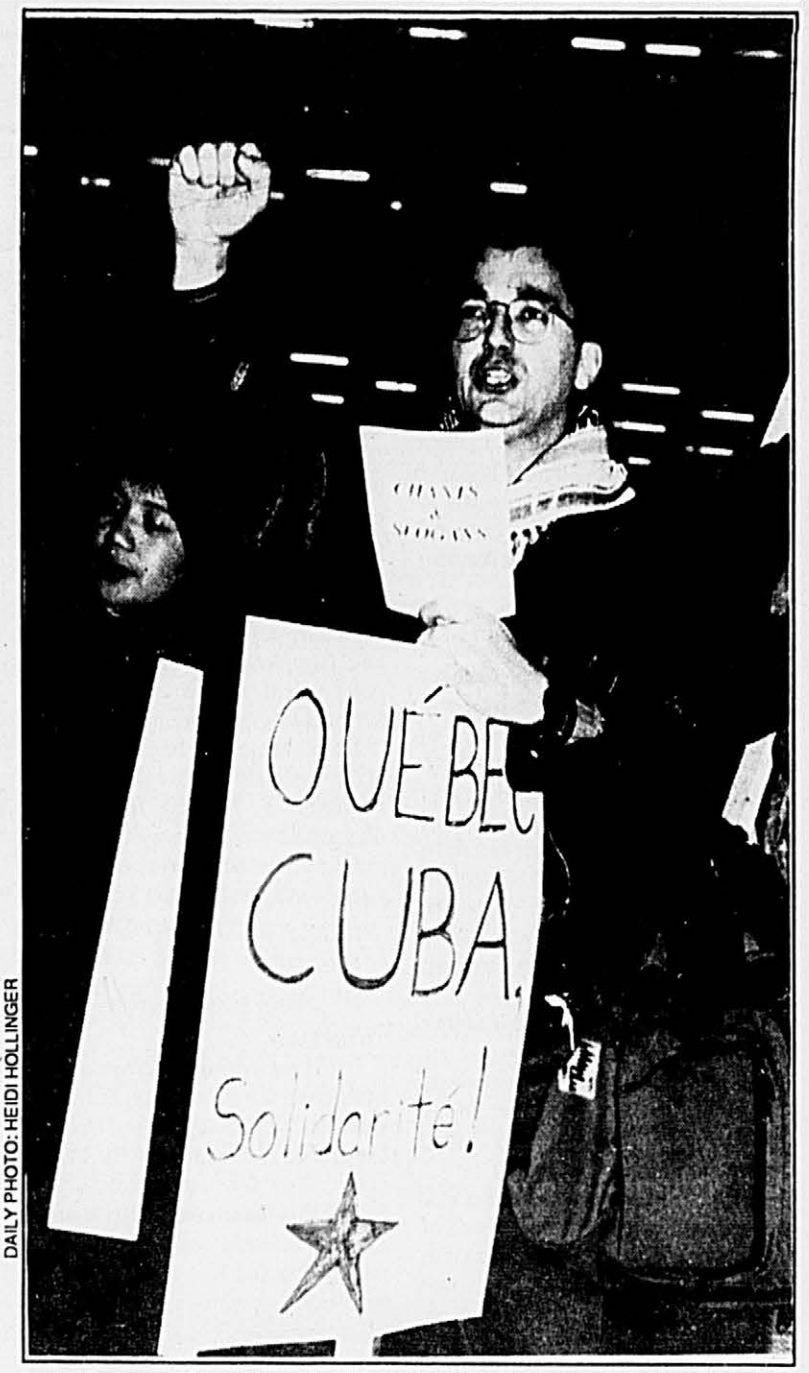
"We have nothing as far as archives go," Vanderyagt said. "It seems Eric Steinman took some of the records to his home in Vancouver."

Steinman refused to comment.

The quorum debate follows a series of scandals involving Steinman who held the CRO post between 1989 and 1991. Last year, it was discovered that Students' Society had unknowingly paid Steinman over the past two years.

Former VPs Finance Jean-Charles Viens and Jane Howard estimated they had paid Steinman over $2500 for his "voluntary" work.

No quorum is required in elections for Students' Society positions.



DAILY PHOTO: HEIDI HOLLINGER

Just when you thought you had forgotten the words to the Internationale: hundreds of demonstrators belted it out in support of Cuba, last Wednesday, in front of the US embassy.

Concordia quits housing co-op

by Ita Kendall

Plans to establish a student-run housing cooperative by three university student groups may be in jeopardy after one member dropped out of the coalition last week.

Charlene Nero and Eleanor Brown, Co-Presidents of the Concordia University Student Association (CUSA), sent a letter to Daron Westman, one of the organizers of the project, saying they "no longer wished to sponsor the project in any manner, financial or otherwise."

CUSA and student associations from McGill and the Université de Québec à Montréal have been working on the Triangle Housing Project since last year. The major force behind the project has been McGill's Québec-PIRG, a student-run research group.

Westman said "he was saddened" that CUSA had dropped out, but he was not surprised. "Communications between the two bodies (CUSA and the Triangle organizers at Québec-PIRG) have been handled badly on both sides," he said.

Project organizers are in the process of choosing a building and setting up a co-op with a $140 000 loan from three Ontario student housing cooperatives.

Lana Grimes and Mike Ryan, CUSA reps to the Triangle project meetings this year, had serious criticisms of the project.

"The rent is way out of line," said Grimes, VP Liason of CUSA. "What they have put on the table does not ring right and we can't support it. It is an elitist set up."

Grimes said Triangle organizers planned to charge between $225 and $260 per student per room in each apartment.

Instead of paying about $650 for a seven and a half in the plateau, four or five students would be paying a total of up to $1300 or more for the same apartment, Grimes said.

"They are planning to buy a building for $30 000 more than it is worth," said Ryan, who has lived in a Milton-Park Co-op for the last decade. He said the buildings' high purchase cost, the high rents, and the lack of subsidization for needier students "runs counter to all the principles of housing co-ops."

Students' Society VP External Karla MacDonald would not comment on CUSA's dropping out. However, she said the two buildings the Triangle group is investigating were not suitable.

"I think the rents are pricey for buildings that are so far away from the McGill campus," she said.

James Kulczycki, the president of the Waterloo Cooperative Residence, was surprised to hear about the Triangle's problems.

He said the Waterloo Co-op and the other co-ops in Toronto would "have to be satisfied with the stability" of the Triangle Project organization before they loaned the Montréal group the $140 000.

Kulczyki was not aware of CUSA's problems with the project. He said the three Toronto co-ops would likely meet to discuss the matter.

Fight erupts over Palestinian display

by Neelam Sandhu

Tempers flared at Vanier College last Thursday, when a Palestinian Students' cultural display offended Jewish students. After much commotion, and some fighting, police were called in.

The conflict began when some of the material in the display was deemed anti-Semetic.

Fist fights broke out, amidst violent arguments between students. One student was punched and had his ear slashed with a knife, according to staff at the Vanier Phoenix, the campus newspaper.

"The literature and imagery posted up promoted hatred of Jews," said Hillel president Gordon Dubrosky.

According to onlookers, enraged students attempted to rip down posters and have the display removed. At the request of the police, the display was removed, to avoid further violence.

The items that incited anger include a poster with the Star of David drenched in blood, and pamphlets equating events occuring in the occupied territories with Nazi concentration camps.

"Everything had significance," said Bassam Hanna, president of Vanier Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (VCPHR), "the flag is dripping with the blood of a Palestinian child."

Hanna said that all the information distributed was documented fact.

The display was intended to commemorate Sabra Shatila, a massacre which occured in a refugee camp in Lebanon and to "inform other Canadians about our culure and politics," said Hanna.

But other students questioned the content of the display. "It was supposed to be a cultural event, but most of the material depicted soldiers and death," said a member of Hillel, "If you are going to bring in political views, they should be objective and not cheap emotionalism."

"We knew it was provocative but that doesn't mean we don't have the right to say it," said VCPHR member Raad Raad.

Hanna expressed regret at the incident, but is concerned that a similar outburst may occur next week when the college's Jewish student community present a display.

— with info from the Phoenix staff

THE MCGILL DAILY

LETTERS

Give Slovenia a chance

To the Daily:

Open letter to Brian Mulroney and Barbara McDougall:

I am a citizen of Slovenia, having obtained my law degree from the University of Ljubljana and a master's degree from the University of Split. I am completing a doctorate in law at McGill University, Faculty of Law, and I also work with a well-known law firm in Montréal.

I strongly support the excellent and self-explanatory article "Yugoslavia's odd man out" (Globe & Mail, October 18, 1991, p. A19), written by Ervin Podgorsak, professor and director of medical physics at McGill University. His arguments need to be taken into account without delay. In addition, I respectfully state and request as follow:

1. The independence of Slovenia is supported by 90% of the Slovenian population as determined democratically by referendum on December 23, 1990;

2. Slovenia declared its independence on June 25, 1991;

3. The new State of Slovenia is willing to accept its obligations under international law and to settle outstanding issues, if any;

4. The principle of equal rights and self-determination of people is one of the most important values and rules adopted into the "Charter of the United Nations" and the "Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation Among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations";

5. By virtue of the aforementioned principle, all people have the right to freely determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

6. Canada has the duty to respect and promote this right, as well as to encourage greater freedom, social progress and better standards that Slovenia wants for itself;

7. Accordingly, Canada should expressly, definitely, unconditionally and completely recognize the new independent and sovereign State of Slovenia and its Government.

May God bless the beautiful country of the maple leaf which enabled so many Slovenes to taste the fruit of the democratic way of living. I know and feel deeply in my heart that the great Canada will give Slovenia a chance...

Marko A. Pavliha

Feel silly, smoker

To the Daily,

I am writing with regard to the letter from the anonymous distraught smoker, which appeared in the November 13th edition of the McGill Daily. You say you find it hard to believe that the smokers outside of the Redpath cafeteria bother Ms. Riley so much. Do you also find it hard to believe that smoking near where I eat offends and disgusts me? Do you find it hard to believe that second hand smoke causes cancer? Or that 30% of the population suffers from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases, such as emphysema and asthma, diseases whose seriousness can be greatly increased by exposure to the millions of toxic agents in tobacco smoke? If I told you that the Earth revolves around the sun, would you find that hard to believe too?

I agree with you. What a ridiculous issue to debate. THERE IS NO SMOKING ALLOWED ANYWHERE INSIDE THE LIBRARIES, INCLUDING OUTSIDE OF THE CAFETERIA. End of debate. If you feel the need to smoke indoors, it is up to you to "DEMAND" the introduction of properly ventilated smoking rooms.

I'm glad you feel silly. You should. I hope Ms. Riley doesn't; I know I certainly don't.

Andrew Morris
Immunology U3

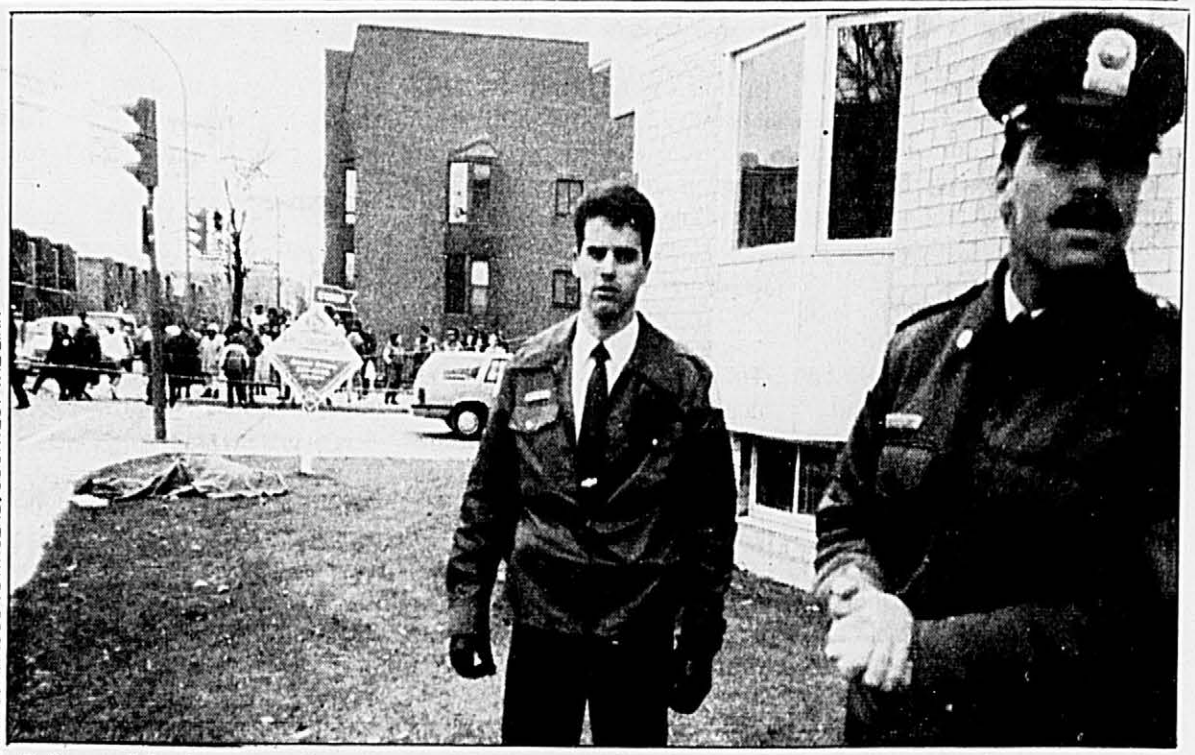


PHOTO: MARCOS TOWNSEND. COURTESY THE LINK

Police push back reporters from the site of the "Easy" Fletcher shooting

LETTERS

Patching the library roof

To the Daily:

OK, Finally I've been prompted to actually reply to a Daily letter. No, it's not sexism, racism, SSMU policies or some other greater evil, but Todd Wilkinson's whining about the library. Granted, it's not perfect, but when funds are less than short, you do your best. First of all, Mr. Wilkinson, is it so difficult to acquire a plain old envelope which would fit conveniently into any school–bag in which to collect these elusive due slips. Would this be too much of a chore, or would you like the library to do this for you, too? Not efficient, is it? Maybe not quite as mindless for you, Mr. Wilkinson, but much more efficient for the library. Book records on computer make things much easier for the staff that must keep track of them – there's a lot of books in there, many lost, overdue, on recall, etc. A computer recall facilitates better service. If you have trouble keeping track of all those books of yours Mr. Wilkinson, the non–efficient computer system tells you a book's due date right on the MUSE screen, and for a measly quarter you can get a computerized print–out of all those books of yours, date due included. And a waste of paper? Sure is. But remember two things - those old cards you had to fill out? Where do you think they went after you had returned your book - to patch the roof? No. Also, I can't tell you how often I've seen students, equidistant between a blue bin and a trash can, toss their slips in the trash. If I had a penny for every time I've transferred stacks of paper from a trash can to a near–by recycling bin...I'd be able to buy you a new library - a more efficient one. As it is, Mr. Wilkinson, take a little time, learn a bit

continued on page 6

HYDE PARK

Officer Johnny a "good boy"

— opinion by Miriame Kaba, Black Students' Network

Another black boy gets shot and once again the Black Community shows its incompetence at dealing with senseless, thoroughly avoidable tragedy. Our "Black Leaders" will once again call for an "honest" inquest into the matter. Once again they will decry the savage actions of the police. We will march and hold vigils for about one day (give or take a few hours).

Then all of our "Black Leaders" will disappear to their ivory towers not to be heard from again until the next shooting. If we are lucky, then newspaper coverage will pick up again several months later when the guilty police officer is finally brought before a commission. The commission will examine whether or not the officer "really meant to shoot that 16 year old kid in the back of the head."

They will debate whether he really meant to do bodily harm to the boy. The commission will determine whether or not the said police officer's statement "Go back to Africa nigger!" before he pulled the trigger can "really" be construed as racist. After all, the statement could have simply been a result of a caffeine overdose by the accused. You see, if he hadn't been on the caffeine he would have simply said "Go back to Africa!" and then pulled the trigger.

Oh! by the way, did I neglect to mention that the inquest commission will consist of the accused police officer's little league coach, his fifth grade teacher who still swears that "Johnny is a good boy", and finally, last but not least, of the accused's own mother.

Postscript: After 10 seconds of deliberations, the commission sentenced officer Johnny Redneck to two hours of community service. He chose to take some "disadvantaged" children from Sacre Coeur private school to an M.C. Hammer concert.

(If you laughed at this piece please realize that this is very close to the real scenario that gets played out in front of us time and time again when there is a racially motivated police murder or shooting. That sad fact is nothing to laugh about!!)

HYDE PARK

To serve and protect whom?

— opinion by Dave Austen, member of Black Students' Network

On Thursday, November 14, 1991 Montréal's finest shot and murdered another young Black male. His name here is irrelevant as he is just one of the many Black males who are continually being destroyed simply because they are Black.

This time they claim that this particular individual committed suicide to avoid being arrested. But anyone who understands the history and culture of Black people, especially in terms of our struggle for mere survival here in the west, would know that the one thing we don't do is commit suicide. We have endured the barbarity of slavery, european domination, and even western sponsored coups and are still living to write about it. Why would we shoot ourselves on account of a Dunkin' Donut? It's just not our style.

The question of suicide here is a non-question. We are coming to the realization that a Black life is worth very little in this society and the apathy shown by non-Black peoples on the whole concerning the various acts of aggression towards Blacks by the police only confirms this.

The police are part of a bigger problem in this society called endemic institutionalized racism. It began some years ago when Black people were first shipped to this side of the world from Africa...

We are starting to ask questions, the right questions. What do we have to do to defend and protect ourselves in a society that places absolutely no value on our lives?

As far as I am concerned this society is no different than South Africa. In fact it is here where we are more vulnerable as many of us still foolishly believe that when the police say "to serve and protect" they are talking about us.

We live with the reality that whether we are drug pushers or doctors, students or criminals, innocent or guilty, our lives are in constant danger. Incredibly enough, this happens to be the only time that the police chose not to discriminate.

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It's an odd case of students being forced to be free

STUDENTS' SOCIETY INC.

The incorporation saga has quietly unfolded since last December, when last year's Students' Society abruptly fired an employee against the university's wishes. Now incorporation involves a complicated web of conflict of interest allegations, a possible $ 500 000 bike in Student Society expenses, and the threat that an incorporated Students' Society could financially flop and again be placed under university trusteeship. What's worrying is that McGill's administration seem to be incorporation's biggest fan.

BY ROBIN LE BARON

Legal incorporation is usually a way for student groups to achieve autonomy and independence from their university administrations. But in an ironic twist, the McGill administration is twisting Students' Society's arm to incorporate, and students are dragging their heels.

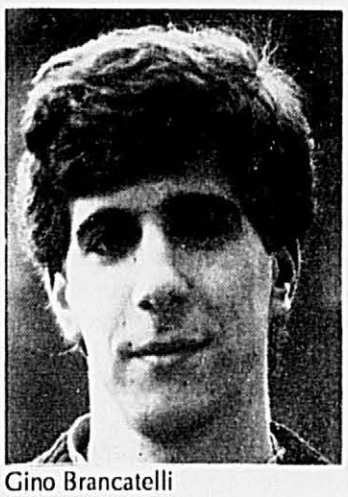
"The university's view is that incorporation is inevitable," said university lawyer Raynald Mercille. "We believe incorporation would be in the best interests of Students' Society."

But a report on incorporation prepared by student council representatives last year suggests the opposite.

"At this time and under the current circumstances it is not in the best interests of the Students' Society to incorporate," the report concludes. The report suggests the cost of incorporation would be prohibitive and the benefits not worth the expenses.

Incorporation would give some political advantages to Students' Society. Groups are recognized as distinct legal bodies only after incorporation. Because Students' Society is not incorporated it is just another department within McGill's administration in the eyes of the courts.

The Society could enter legally binding contracts or take legal action against other persons or groups only after incorporating. These powers could make the Society less dependent on the university.



DAILY PHOTO: DON TAI

Gino Brancatelli

But David Gruber, architecture rep. to council, argued Students' Society would probably not take advantage of the benefits of incorporation.

"It's unlikely that any political benefits would ever be used, given Students' Society's history and its lack of confrontational politics with the administration," he said.

University steamrolls students

Students' Society is presently involved in a battle with the university which illustrates its political weaknesses.

Last December, students' council voted to dismiss their employee Don McGerrigle.

But when Students' Society executive members informed the university Senate that they had dismissed McGerrigle, they were told they had not correctly followed the university's dismissal procedures.

"McGerrigle was and still is a McGill employee," said Mercille. "A decision regarding any McGill employee must follow proper procedures."

"Those procedures were not followed."

A former executive member disagreed.

"[McGerrigle's removal] conformed entirely to procedures which the University Senate had approved for removing an Executive Director," former VP External Alex Usher wrote in a *Tribune* editorial two weeks ago.

The university then transferred McGerrigle to an administrative position in the athletics department and forced Students' Society to continue paying his salary. Students have now paid McGerrigle for ten months of work since his dismissal.

The McGerrigle incident left both Students' Society and the university claiming the other had broken the letter of agreement between the two bodies. They are presently working out a new letter of agreement.

New shoes involve conflict of interest?

Students' Society president Scott Mitic argued the McGerrigle incident proved the Society needs additional powers. If the Society had been incorporated it could have fired McGerrigle without university intervention.

"We're very much constrained by the shoes we're in," Mitic said. "We need to buy a new pair of shoes."

But other students argued Students' Society would gain few real benefits from incorporation.

"Standing up in Senate as an incorporated body, we wouldn't have any more real power," said Gino Brancatelli. Brancatelli, a former engineering rep to council, co-authored the report recommending Students' Society not incorporate.

Other students suggest the Society executive is knuckling under to university pressures. Usher recommended that the Students' Society executive fight the McGill administration in Senate instead of agreeing to incorporate.

"What is incomprehensible is why the Students' Society Executive is so hell-bent, not only on capitulating to the University's demands, but in promoting the idea of incorporation as its own initiative," he wrote.

Gruber agreed. "Rather than confront the university directly, they would rather make a deal."

Gruber questioned Students' Society's ethics in dealing with the administration.

"It is very questionable for this executive to be negotiating when one of the key players is the principal's daughter," he said. "It's a problem when the president of Students' Society has asked the (university's) principal for recommendations."

The university is intent on getting Students' Society to incorporate, students say.

"There was, still is, always has been pressure from the university to incorporate," Brancatelli commented.

In its latest show of brinkspersonship, the university presented Students' Society with the draft of a new letter of agreement. The letter begins by stating the letter is an agreement between a newly incorporated Students' Society and the university.

More and more and more fees

Some observers speculate that the university is out for student cash. An incorporated Students' Society could assume many of the costs and responsibilites the university currently bears.

"WE'RE VERY MUCH CONSTRAINED BY THE SHOES WE'RE IN. WE NEED TO BUY A NEW PAIR OF SHOES."

SCOTT MITIC, SSMU PRESIDENT

Legal liability is one of the largest costs the university would probably like to transfer to students after incorporation. Because Students' Society is legally considered a part of McGill, the university is liable for the Society's actions.

The McGill staff association, for example, could have sued the university after McGerrigle was given the axe.

"The Don McGerrigle incident is an example of something the university would like to avoid," Brancatelli said.

Brancatelli said GST payments and increased insurance costs would be the two largest expenses of incorporation. A recent report by Students' Society's auditors suggests the Society would pay almost $30 000 in GST if incorporated.

Students' Society would also likely be responsible for insurance for Gert's, an expense now covered by the administration.

Staff benefits and a new accounting system would be other major costs to a newly-incorporated Students' Society.

No one has yet provided an official estimate of the costs of incorporation. But GST costs; insurance and salary for new employees to handle the Society's accounts could amount to several hundred thousand dollars.

"It amounts to another tax on students," Gruber said. "And whatever the university saves, it's not going to lower students fees by the same amount."

Then there's the Union building lease with the university. If the Society incorporated, the university could demand it pay heating and air conditioning costs, and even rent,. These costs, although unlikely, could rack up another $300 000 or more.

Going down under the waves

Students' Society is already in bad financial shape. An annual bill for $200 000 or more after incorporation could bankrupt the Society, or put the society in trusteeship.

The situation has historical precedents. In 1976 the university declared a trusteeship over an earlier version of Students' Society after scandal destroyed it.

But Students' Society is in an unusual position because incorporation has usually seen as a positive move for student autonomy. A number of other student groups across campus have already incorporated.

DAILY PHOTO: JANINE LUCE

Scott Mitic

The post-graduate society (PGSS) incorporated twenty years ago in 1971.

"At the time, the university wasn't pleased," said post-grad rep Eric Darier.

Students' Society incorporation raises the larger issue of what the Society is for. Incorporation is supposed to give students greater autonomy and power. But if incorporation means paying through the nose while our elected representatives shun political action we're probably better off without it.

Men's film on violence against women challenged

by Carrie Hintz

A Quebéc-PIRG initiated film about violence against women is drawing criticism from the Women's Union due to lack of involvement in the film by women.

Last Tuesday the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society refused the film funds after Women's Union members spoke against it.

"I believe that a film addressing the issue of violence against women directed towards a men's perspective might raise male consciousness," said former film producer Elizabeth Wardle.

"But I feel that this project is too exclusive in its outlook to reflect my understanding of feminism."

The film follows two characters through the progression of a relationship. It includes five fictional vignettes of unacceptable male behavior and five interviews with men criticizing the vignettes.

"It was our decision from the start to take a male perspective," said the film's director and writer Charles Keaton. "This film is not the last to be shot on the subject. There is no reason why any point of view should be censored."

The Québec-PIRG board which made the decision to support the film included women, explained Keaton. "One person is not the whole thing. I claim to be the author of the edited version — of putting the pieces together."

Concordia screenwriting student Deirdre Brown co-wrote the original script. Brown was chosen both for her perspective as a woman and for her scriptwriting abilities, according to Keaton.

Wardle left the project because of "ideological differences," said Keaton.

"I tried to divorce myself from the project when I realized that I would not be able to endorse or competently produce it," Wardle said.

"I think the project needs a lot more research by women, even more than a single person as co-writer."

Keaton said criticisms of the film's content were based only on a preliminary proposal. "Since then, I have a more developed idea of what the interviews may say. The most complicated situations are yet to be shot."

Daron Westman, chairman of McGill's Québec-PIRG Board of Governors pointed out that "the point of the film is to present the way that men actually behave. Interspersed are discussions and critiques of men in the fictional segments." The film is designed to act as a "springboard for discussion for men and women to discuss behaviors."

Student Rebecca Levi suggested the authors tried to contextualize scenes of male violence, but they were not successful "because of the lack of sensitivity put into the script."

"I would have to say that they have little control over their own self-reflexivity," she said.

Keaton emphasized that he had fixed a meeting with two members of the Women's Union on Friday "to talk about the concerns that they have about the project."

Susanne Stein, stated that not all members of the Women's Union were opposed to his project. "I think there have to be modifications made, but we don't have to discuss this in a confrontational context."

Wardle said, "I'm glad the director of the film is going to discuss the film with members of the Women's Union. Their input is wanted and the project will benefit from their involvement."

DAILY PHOTO: JANINE LUCE

Rebecca Levi: "they have little control over their own self-reflexivity"

Tenants battle ghetto superintendent

by Noah Quastel

Tenants in an apartment building near McGill are accusing their superintendant of harassment and intimidation.

The list of complaints by residents of the Pine Street apartment building are extensive. They include verbal and physical abuse, sexual harrassment, negligence and invasion of privacy.

Tenant Cam Ringland said the building's superintendent, Gaetan Luchman, physically attacked him. Luchman allegedly punched Ringland in the side of the head following an argument about undone repairs.

The whole incident was "very unexpected and quite out of the blue," Ringland said.

Some tenants in the building have begun to organize against Luchman. Ringland said tenants are afraid that if they voice their concerns, the situation could worsen. "Getting repairs done now is almost impossible."

Philip Ashton of the Québec-PIRG Housing Project said the tenants' situation is a clear violation of rental laws. He said most tenants in the McGill Ghetto get rotten treatment from landlords because "it is the last district in the city without a tenants rights organization."

Québec-PIRG has been working for three years to organize students in the Milton-Parc area and in the McGill Ghetto.

Many complaints against Luchman surfaced in an earlier tenants meeting. Ringland said when a woman tenant momentarily left garbage in the hall, "Luchman knocked on the door and threw the garbage into her apartment." The woman then asked Luchman to put out his cigarette and he stubbed it out on the hallway carpet, he said.

Soon after she was given an eviction notice for leaving garbage in the hallway and extinguishing cigarettes on the hallway carpet, said Ringland.

Other women tenants have complained of sexual harassment from Luchman.

"When you pass him in the hall he expects hugs, and sometimes kisses," said one woman who wished to remain anonymous. "The basic problem is, that one is always uncomfortable with him."

She said if one resists Luchman's advances he will refuse to complete necessary repairs. "He is not logical or rational. If he likes you, the repairs get done, but not otherwise."

She said Luchman regularly used his master key to enter women's apartments on Saturday mornings. He arrives with plates of croissants.

"This is an obvious intrusion of privacy. He's in your apartment and you're in your bath robe," she said.

Ringland said that during the summer Luchman also used his master key to enter the apartments of tenants absent on vacation. He threw some tenants' belongings out the window and confiscated other things. Ringland said some tenants have not been able to get their belongings back

Residents say they have consistently been bothered by police inquiries initiated by Luchman. Yet the building's owner claimed he was unaware of the inquiries.

"Police have been here on many occasions, but when I told the owner he was very surprised and did not believe me at first," Ringland said.

He said Luchman has been keeping the building's owner "in the dark."

Tenants of the building will meet today with the building's owners to demand immediate changes. If they are unsucessful, Ringland said they will file a complaint with the Régie de Logement.

Luchman has refused to speak to the *Daily*.

LETTERS

continued from page 4

more about the libraries, and maybe you'll learn that some things are improved by technology.

Renée Chialut
Arts U3

Redmen real winners

To the Daily:

It was bound to happen. The First Nations groups have decided that "Redmen" is offensive. According to the department of athletics, it has been used in a Native context since the late 1960's. That's almost 25 years. So why, now, is "Redmen" offensive? Or for that matter "Redskins", "Chiefs", "Indians" or "Braves"?

Hey, didn't they get to the world series? Wasn't there some controversy around that "Tomahawk Chop"? Yes, there certainly was. But I didn't see anyone picketing the Cleveland Indians last season. Why? They were in last place, of course. Since the Atlanta Braves were foolish enough to play baseball well enough, they got media exposure. At that point, First Nations people saw the ripe opportunity to stir up some controversy.

Now the local groups have hopped on the bandwagon. Would they have done so if the braves stayed in last place? I think not. This just shows the way "politically correct" zealots try to exploit the media to their advantage.

After time, this could get out of hand. If the Vancouver Canucks hockey team continues to win games, then someone will probably find "Canuck" insulting to their Canadian ancestry. If the New York Yankees win games, people may decide that "Yankees" portrays them as exploiters after the American Civil War.

This "politically correct" campaigning will have everyone looking over their shoulder in fear of offending someone, anyone. The Daily should be criticised for letting itself be used in this manner.

James Jordan
U1 Arts

Cheap shots

To the Daily:

I am writing in response to Kate Stewart's and Doug McDonald's column "Magic Johnson: The Activist" which appeared in the *Daily* of November 14,

The authors claim that Johnson's statement, "I'm far from being gay — you know that," is homophobic. They also imply the media "created" Johnson.

If I were to state "I am far from being Chinese — you know that," would it be racist? (Assuming that I am no, in fact,

Chinese). If the authors truly believe this is going to be a racist comment, thay must have immense trouble sayig anything which is not pejorative to someone — is the statement that "Doung McDonald is a man" sexist? I think not.

As for Magic Johnson being a creation of the media, I fail to see how someone who does what he does live, and who would do it whether or not there were any media to broadcast it, can be a media creation; Magic Johnson is not.

The authors' point is a good one — that heterosexuals have, until now, believed that AIDS is mainly a problem of the homosexual community, and that Magic Johnson may convince them otherwise. But the authors' case is weakened by their cheap shots at Johnson. In the same way, spokespeople for the homosexual community often make their viewpoint sound ridiculous with their self-righteous ranting and raving.

Andrea Bulman-Fleming
U1 Science

Distraught Smoker butt out

To the Daily:

Smoking outside the Redpath Cafeteria is, for many students, not a "ridiculous issue to be debating." I will assume that your comments are made out of ignorance. You may have a "real hard time believing" that people are actually bothered by smoke, but for lots of people with lung problems or allergies, second-hand smoke is not just a "bother," but a real health issue. Peoples' physical reactions to smoke range from mild irritation of the throat and eyes to headaches, nausea, bronchial constriction which causes a lack of oxygen, and pulmonary hemorrhage which causes people to cough up blood. Your mocking attitude belittles a problem which means genuine restrictions to some people (yes, Anonymous Smoker, there are people who don't go to bars because of this!). Of course, there are also many non-smokers unaffected by cigarette smoke, but please don't assume this applies to all non-smokers.

The importance of fighting sexism, racism, and homophobia is not in doubt. That doesn't, however, make this issue "silly" — for some of us, it's far from it.

Sheryl Riley and her group are simply asking for reasonable enforcement of the no-smoking policy so that everyone is free to use all parts of the Redpath Building. Congratualations to them!

D. Duff
Science U3

CLASSIFIEDS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, Room B-17, Union Building, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication.

McGill Students (with valid ID): $3.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $2.50 per day. McGill Employees (with staff card) $4.50 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, $3.50 per day. All others: $5.00 per day, or $4.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. (Prices do not include applicable GST or PST). For more information, please visit our office in person – WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Youth Initiatives Programme: All those interested in participating in international development projects are invited to a meeting on Tuesday, November 19 at 5 p.m. in Burnside 426.

Three-Nine-Eight-Six-Eight-Two-Two. The first step is only seven numbers away. Lesbian and Gay Peer Counselling. 7—10 pm Tues.—Sat. Sponsored by LBGM.

All Clubbed Out? LBGM's Lesbian and Gay Discussion Group offers an alternative. Join us Fridays, 17h30 at the Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer.

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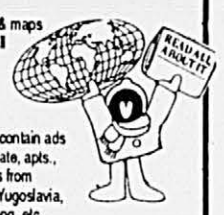

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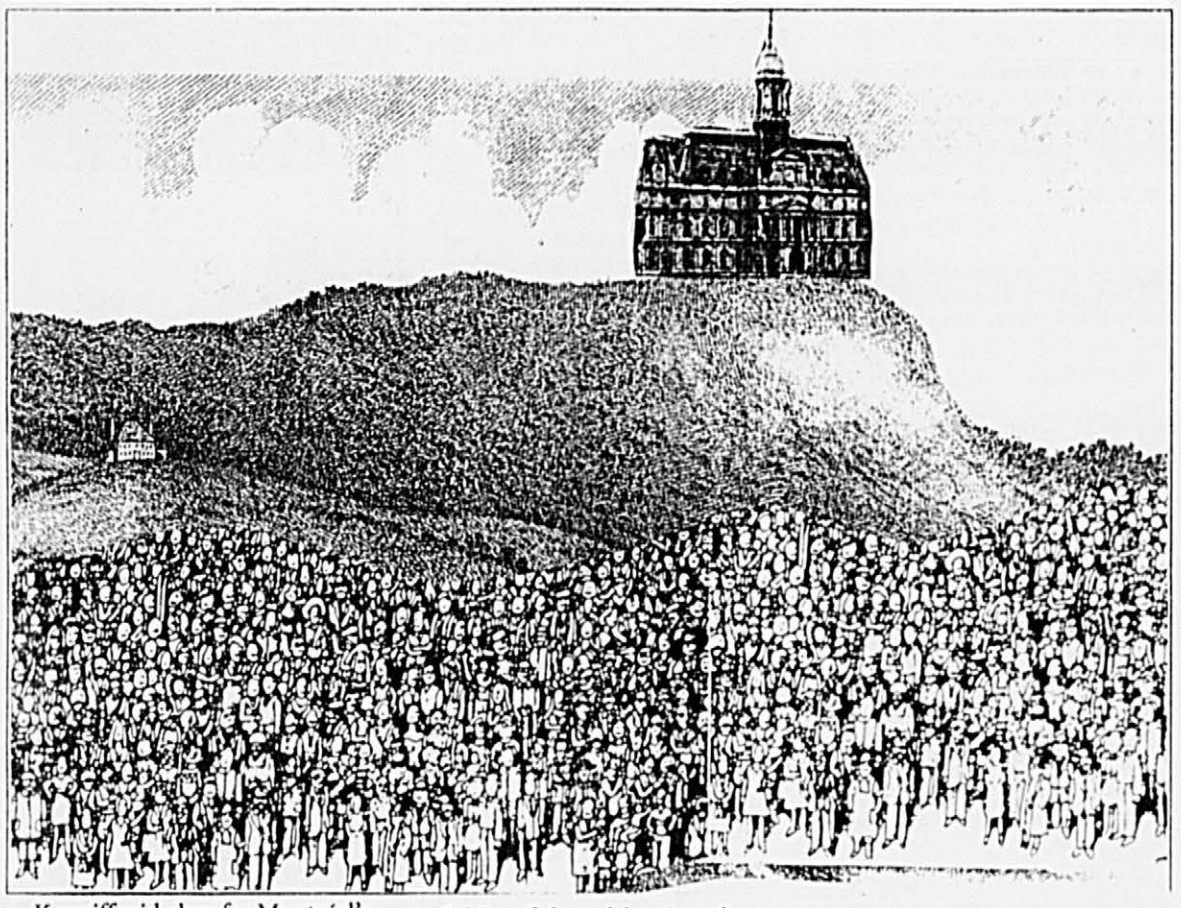
Helping the Captains of big business

Montréal's 350th birthday celebrations are not designed to smokescreen Québec's ongoing economic and constitutional crisis, said celebrations president and Concordia rector Patrick Kenniff.

by Michael Mastarciyan



Kenniff said plans for Montréal's 350th anniversary were made long before issues such as the recession and the debate over Canadian unity came to the surface. He spoke to business people at a luncheon given at Montréal's Canadian Club.

"The 1992 celebrations will offer us a wonderful opportunity to reassert our pride in our collective past," said Kenniff. "It will let us address lucidly the problems that beset us today and approach tomorrow with confidence in ourselves and openess to others."

But community anti-poverty groups have criticized the anniversary plans as political opportunism on the part of city mayor Jean Doré and his ruling MCM party.

"We certainly won't be applauding the celebrations, because they only amount to meglomania à la Doré," said Alain Cochais of the Comité Chomage Sud-Ouest, a unemployment support group in St. Henri.

The 150-day celebration, to be held between May 15 and October 12 will cost city taxpayers an estimated $400 million.

Critics of the celebrations have said that the money would be better spent elsewhere.

"Spending $400 million on festivities is rather excessive when you consider all the city's problems with poverty and the cutbacks to public transport," said Cochais.

But Kenniff argued the 350-year celebrations would bring tourist dollars to the city and stimulate the local economy.

"Montréal deserves a celebration as it is one of the oldest cities in North America and the investment will generate billions of dollars in economic activity."

But city opposition council member Marvin Rotrand said the city's plans are absolutely excessive and indicative of Kenniff's skewed vision of economics.

"Kenniff holds the traditional view of economic development," said Rotrand. "He believes in helping the captains of big business instead of giving funds to neighbourhood economic councils. Assisting small businesses provides the most long-term jobs and stability to the economy"

Cochais was also pessimistic about the celebration's positive economic effect on the city.

"It definitely won't make a profit," said Cochais. "Just look at festivities for Québec city's 450th birthday in 1984. They were a financial disaster."

Rotrand said the celebrations are receiving a hidden subsidy from the city's "beautification" campaign.

"The renovations of city hall, Champ de Mars and the paving of Old Montréal streets with granite are proof the city is spending more money on the celebrations than it appears," said Rotrand.

Kenniff told the audience the celebrations were first and foremost a celebration of Montréal's multicultural heritage. He said that over 100 of the 300 events will take place in Montréal's various ethnic neighbourhoods and cultural communities.

He assured the audience the celebration festivities would leave a positive and lasting impression on the city. He jokingly added that he wasn't referring to "a long-term financial headache."

WRITERS INTERESTED IN WRITING AND RESEARCHING FIRST NATIONS ISSUES ARE INVITED TO MEET AT THE *DAILY* ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:30.

EVENTS

The 4th Annual Food Drive organized by the McGill Volunteer Bureau, needs volunteers, Nov 18 to Dec 20. Bring your non-perishable food.

Vernissage for "Grace of Light," photographs by Sheldon Levy at Kuts, 5590 Sherbrooke St West, 20h00 to 23h00. Proceeds to the NDG food depot. Please bring a non-perishable food item (baby food would be especially appreciated). Exhibit runs until January 18, 1992.

"A General Survey of Chinese Ethnology since 1949," a speech by Professor Cheng Yongling. Presented by the McGill Anthropolgy Speakers Series and Université de Montréal. 16h30 at Université de Montréal, salle 3019, Pav. Lionel-Groulx, 3150 rue Jean-Brillant.

Reading from "Old and Smart: Women and Aging" by author Betty Nickerson. 19h at Double Hook Books.

The Pillar is having a very exciting meeting 17h30 in Arts 350, all welcome.

LAGEM is having an Important Meeting at Thompson House, 3650 McTavish St, 4th floor, Board Room. Open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual employees of McGill. 17h30

Québec PIRG — Violence Against Women, General Meeting to organize Law and a pamphlet. In the Alley at 12h30, all welcome.

"Established Order or Emergent Process? The Substance of Literature and Society," a lecture by Charles Levin, Visiting Prof in Comparitive Literature. Presented by McGill's Comparative Literature Program and the Graduate Program in Communications. Faculty Lounge, Rm 116, Peterson Hall 16h30.

EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

CKUT 90.3 fm presents its "Family Violence Focus Series."

The silence of Family Violence is finally being broken as people are coming forward to discuss this important issue.

Tune in to CKUT's newsmagazine, "Off The Hour," this week between 5 and 6 pm for a special series on Family Violence.

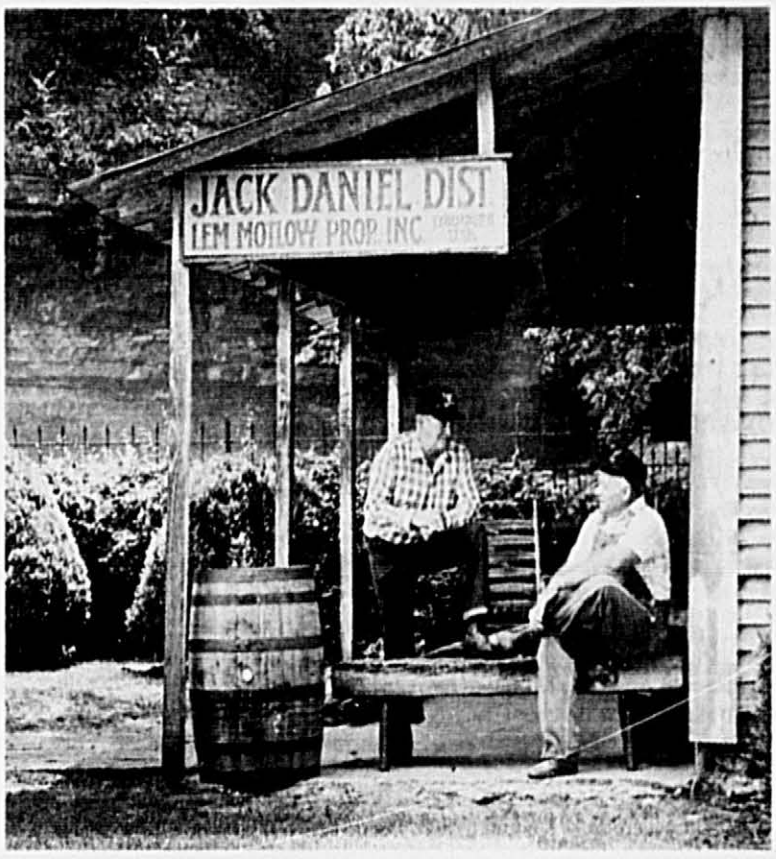
Monday — "Effects of family Violence on Children"

Tuesday — "Battered Wives Syndrome"

Wednesday — "Violence and Immigrant Women"

Thursday — "Men and Violence"

For more info call Helena Katz or Stuart Greer at 398-6787.



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Jack Daniel settled on this very spot in 1866 and here's where he found ironfree water perfect for his needs. The spring still flows at our distillery today, not ten yards from where these gentlemen are chatting. And we still make Jack Daniel's Tennessee whiskey the way Jack and Lem once made it, drop by drop. After a sip, we believe you'll appreciate our traditional ways.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

If you'd like a booklet about Jack Daniel's Whiskey, write us here in Lynchburg, Tennessee, 37352 U.S.A.